



**HATEFUL TORY PLAN
THREATENS REFUGEES**

PATEL'S RACISM KNOWS NO BOUNDS >>PAGE 20



**TRUMP'S FOUR
YEARS OF HORROR**

**MILLIONS UNDER ATTACK FROM
THE RIGHT >>PAGES 10&11**

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DON'T SCAPEGOAT ORDINARY PEOPLE



FIGHT THE REAL VIRUS SPREADERS

Coronavirus cases soar after Tories' new failures over testing >>Pages 4&5

COVID-19

Care homes 'managed death' in first virus wave

THE TORIES are "directly responsible" for virus deaths in care homes in the spring, an Amnesty International report has said.

It says government policies knowingly put 400,000 care home residents in danger.

And it shows how some residents were refused medical treatment.

>>Page 3

OIL WORKERS



The system is rigged against green jobs

A MAJORITY of offshore oil workers would be interested in working in renewable energy, a report found last week.

But many are being shut out of the industry despite having useful skills and knowledge.

The Tories are clinging to polluting industries.

>>Page 17

INDIA

Woman's rape and murder sees mass revulsion

A WAVE of anger at police, politicians and caste violence has spread across India after four upper-caste men allegedly raped and murdered a low-caste Dalit woman.

Manisha Valmiki died in hospital after being attacked in Uttar Pradesh last month.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'I know people are furious, and they are furious with me and furious with the government'

Boris Johnson shows an unusual understanding of the situation

'It's going to continue to be bumpy through to Christmas, it may even be bumpy beyond'

Johnson's prediction for what happens now with Covid-19

'In so far as that scheme may have helped to spread the virus, then obviously we need to counteract that'

Johnson admits the 'Eat out to Help out' scheme helped to spread coronavirus

'By the spring, if Covid is looking better, the economy is picking up and the Bond movie is finally out, things could look very different'

A government minister expresses slightly more optimism



Eight people die in Glasgow hotel during Covid-19 crisis

EIGHT PEOPLE have died at a Glasgow hotel used to shelter the homeless during lockdown.

Four men and four women have died at the Alexander Thomson since March—with only one “non-suspicious” case resolved.

Sources said it seemed “nobody cares” about the plight of rough sleepers being holed up in temporary accommodation during lockdown.

An insider at the Argyle Street hotel said, “It’s shocking what staff and residents are having to go through.”

“There have been eight bodies found in the last six months and it just seems like nobody cares.”

“On one day in July two bodies were found and a member of staff saved another man’s life by stopping him from taking an overdose.”

“The council are using it as accommodation for the homeless during lockdown but it means folk are trapped in these horrendous places when they are already at their lowest ebb.”



The Alexander Thomson hotel

“People need to know how bad it’s been for staff and residents.”

A woman died at the temporary shelter on 25 April and a man on 17 May. The deaths of two men were recorded within a fortnight of each other in June.

A man and a woman both died on 28 July and a woman on 27 August. The following day another woman died.

Her death was declared “not

suspicious” but the other seven remain unexplained.

It comes weeks after the Scottish government backtracked on a vow to ensure the homeless wouldn’t have to spend more than a week in temporary lodgings.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart announced in May that the Unsuitable Accommodation Order—which blocks councils from placing pregnant women or families with children into B&Bs or hotels for longer than seven days—would be extended to homeless households.

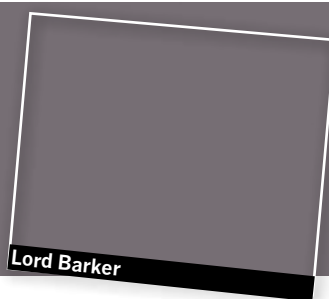
The change was fast-tracked in response to the Covid pandemic but the legislation includes exemptions up to 31 January 2021 so local authorities can place vulnerable residents in hotels for longer.

Alison Watson, director of Housing charity Shelter Scotland, said she was “extremely concerned” by the deaths.

She added, “If people are stuck in hotel rooms for months without support that will have serious consequences for their wellbeing.”

DELIVEROO HAS generated heavy losses and so paid little, if any, tax. The last available accounts, for 2018, show that Deliveroo made losses of £230 million on a turnover of £476 million (up from £277 million the previous year). Rooffoods Ltd, Deliveroo’s parent company, pays no corporation tax. In fact, Deliveroo claimed a £640,000 tax rebate thanks to a government scheme.

LORD BARKER of Battle took a break from running oligarch Oleg Deripaska’s metals firm last week to deliver a speech titled Making More From Less. A subject he is well qualified in. After a brief career in David Cameron’s government as a climate minister he became a peer. This was followed by a £6 million pay check from metals firm EN+.



Lord Barker

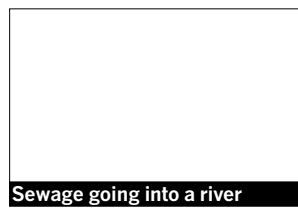
Water firms’ record failings on pollution

ENGLAND’S privatised water monopolies have recorded their worst ratings for tackling pollution in eight years, according to the government’s environment regulator.

The Environment Agency said that in 2019 four out of nine water and sewage companies were rated as poor or requiring improvement, the worst result since 2011.

The figures showed there were 2,204 water pollution incidents in 2019, up from 1,863 in 2018, the greatest increase since 2014.

Since 2010, the agency has relied on water companies to self-report



Sewage going into a river

pollution incidents. The report rates each company from one to four stars, based on measures including serious pollution incidents and compliance with permits.

South West Water, which supplies 1.6 million people has never got above a two-star rating.

Southern Water, which supplies 4.6 million customers was awarded only one star.

Cops unnecessarily criminalise women

WOMEN suffering from poverty, mental health illnesses and victims of domestic and sexual abuse are being arrested unnecessarily and criminalised, according to MPs.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System said that women were inappropriately held in custody before being released without being charged.

The study drew on data from five police forces covering 600 arrests of women which found 40 percent of

arrests resulted in no further action. It cited examples of a woman arrested for begging outside a supermarket and another woman for repeatedly walking into a main road.

Almost 100,000 arrests of women were made during the year in 2019.

The report found that many of the women who were arrested were victims in a domestic abuse incident.

Almost three-quarters of the women arrested were previously known to the police due to being victims of sexual violence.



Fake cladding certificate for Cardiff flat complex

THE FIRE safety certificate for cladding on a block of Cardiff flats has been found to be fake.

A resident of Marseilles House at Century Wharf discovered the building’s External Wall Fire Review (EWS1) contained a false surveyor’s signature.

An industry-wide certificate was introduced following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, in which 72 people died.

The surveyor, who did not wish to be named, confirmed she had not



Century Wharf

carried out the survey or signed the form.

Property management company Warwick Estates contracted Newbridge-based Specialist Facade Inspections to conduct the EWS1 survey.

However Specialist Facade Inspections said it only produces a report—which is signed off by a third-party chartered surveyor for a fee of £200—and it had also been the victim of fraud.

The company’s founder Paul Tedstone said the forged signature was also used on “five or six” other EWS1 certificates, but could not provide contact details for the third-party surveyor or the name of the company.

“EWS1 is a bloody piece of paper. In order to tick that box you need a [qualified person]. None of those accreditations I hold, nor did the business hold,” he said.

“It was nonsense—you need someone else just to confirm what we already know.”

“Just for the last piece of paper, as I didn’t have the letters after my name to sign it off.”

“There has been weeks and weeks of intrusive surveys.”

“We have done nothing wrong, apart from being a bit naïve.”

“We’re victims too.”

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Care homes 'managed death' in virus first wave

by SARAH BATES

THE FULL horror wreaked upon care homes during coronavirus has been revealed by a new Amnesty International report.

The human rights charity blasted the Tory government as "directly responsible" for the way coronavirus ripped through residential social care facilities in the spring.

The first wave of Covid-19 was devastating for residents—and tens of thousands of them perished of the disease.

Amnesty's latest report, seen by the Mail on Sunday newspaper, says a host of government policies knowingly put 400,000 residents in danger.

Figure

Some 18,562 deaths have been recorded as due to Covid-19. But the real figure is much higher—some 28,186 more deaths than normal occurred in care homes over a period of three months this year.

Amnesty is demanding an immediate independent public inquiry, a process where Tory health secretary Matt Hancock would have to explain his disastrous decisions.

The report, called *As If They Were Expendable*, shows how care home residents were refused medical treatment despite beds being available in hospitals.

One Yorkshire care home manager tried to get a resident into hospital in March. He said he was told the resident was "at the end of his life anyway, so we're not going to send an ambulance".

The investigation found care home residents were prevented from receiving potentially lifesaving care because health bosses wanted to "protect the NHS" and avoid images of overflowing hospital departments.

On 17 March, NHS England told

hospitals to urgently discharge Covid-19 patients into care homes.

One facility manager said residents were discharged so quickly they arrived "without teeth or glasses".

Care home workers have said that local health bosses put pressure on

CARE HOMES were at the centre of coronavirus (above) Matt Hancock (below) is to blame

them to get local doctors to sign "do not resuscitate" orders (DNARs) for patients.

Peter Kyle, Labour MP for Hove, said care homes in his constituency were issuing DNAR notices "en masse", saying that in one home, 16 of the 26 residents signed DNARs under instruction from a GP.

Yet the crisis continues, as a new surge of infections begins to filter through residential social care.

Rates are rising, the testing regime is failing and there isn't enough space for residents to self-isolate if they test positive.

Information from care home providers has cast doubt on Public Health England's (PHE) official infection figures.

HC-One, Britain's largest provider, said 20 of its homes had suffered outbreaks in the last fortnight. In just one week, it recorded new outbreaks in a dozen homes, equivalent to 4 percent of its facilities.

Yet PHE claims that, in the same period, just 1 percent of homes were suffering outbreaks.

Workers and residents are left in danger because of the Tory government's failure to roll out a reliable testing regime.

Ministers should be held to account for their series of failures.



GP surgeries have run out

Flu vaccine shortage

MILLIONS OF vulnerable people are facing a terrifying winter as they struggle to get flu vaccines that could mean the difference between life and death.

A national shortage of the flu vaccine means stocks are running dangerously low and people are being advised it could take several weeks until they get a jab.

Health secretary Matt Hancock promised that 30 million people would be able to get the flu vaccine for free this year.

But like so many Tory promises, the reality is very different.

Serious

People over 65 years old, pregnant women and those with serious long-term illnesses are offered the flu vaccine for free.

That's because they have a higher risk of complications from the virus.

Hancock said the free vaccination programme would be expanded to include people between the ages of 50 and 64.

But there is a 15 million vaccine shortfall.

The vaccine is usually administered at chemists or GP surgeries. Many pharmacists—including Lloyds and Boots—are refusing to book flu vaccine appointments.

The failure to push forward a faster programme of vaccination development and production show another way that the Tories are gambling with our lives.

What's your story?
Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Socialist Worker Appeal to raise £125,000

Socialist Worker gives a voice to the people fighting for a better world. Throughout the pandemic it has taken on the racist scapegoating and anti working class rhetoric of the mainstream press.

We publish stories of the strikes and protests that can beat back the bosses and bigots. We are asking everyone who enjoys Socialist Worker to donate as much as they can to help fund the resistance.

I SUPPORT THE APPEAL BECAUSE...

In this age of fake news and misinformation that reached a new level during the recent Covid-19 crisis, you can rely on Socialist Worker to disperse the manipulative fog and see the reality for what it is.

This is your source for understanding the global



sites in which human and workers' rights are under constant threat by neoliberalism, callous capitalism, and settler colonialism.

Ilan Pappé
author, activist
and historian

To donate go to socialistworker.co.uk/appeal

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£125,000

£100,000

£75,000

Total so far

£57,889

£50,000

£25,000

IN THIS WEEK

1856

Second Opium War begins

The British and French empires launch their second Opium War against China.

The first saw the European powers grab ports for themselves, including Hong Kong, and the right to export hard drugs.



Coronavirus cases soar after Tories' new failures over testing

by SADIE ROBINSON

BACK STORY

The Tories have failed to contain the spread of the virus, putting many at risk

● The broken test and trace system has led to a massive rise in the number of Covid-19 cases

● Nearly 16,000 cases went unreported after a 'glitch' in the system

● People are unknowingly spreading the virus because they do not know that they are infectious

OFFICIAL CASES of coronavirus in Britain shot up last weekend after a failure in the Tories' test and trace system.

The chaos shows that the Tories have lost control of the virus. And it will add to the sense among growing numbers of people that the government cannot be trusted.

Some 22,961 cases were reported on Sunday, and 12,872 on Saturday. This follows days of between 6,000 and 7,000 daily cases.

A "glitch" meant that nearly 16,000 coronavirus cases went unreported between 25 September and 2 October. These were then added in at the weekend.

The error meant a delay in informing the contacts of people who tested positive for the virus, hindering attempts to contain it.

And it means that daily case figures for the end of last week were nearer 11,000 rather than the 7,000 reported.

Last week the government changed its advice on when people with symptoms should get a test. Initially the government website said, "You need to get the test done in the first five days of having symptoms."

Site

But on Friday this was changed to, "On day eight, you need to go to a test site."

Coronavirus helpline workers say that tests taken after five days of someone first having symptoms will not be accurate.

The change follows disarray at test centres, with sites running out of tests and angry queues of people.

The Tories may want to delay the numbers of people coming forward for tests to ease the pressure on sites.

But this means that positive cases won't be picked up—and that people with the virus will

Boris Johnson

unwittingly spread it to others.

Allyson Pollock from the Independent Sage group of scientists condemned the Tory failure to fund a proper testing system.

"The priority for the government should be to find symptomatic people early," she said.

"The problem is, the government has created a centralised, ineffective, privatised testing and contact-tracing system."

Former regional public health director John Ashton said testing after eight days was useless.

"The horses will have bolted, with more people becoming infected," he said.

"This is out of the same playbook as downgrading the classification of the virus severity to justify less PPE."

The Tories are putting our lives at risk because the measures needed to tackle the virus cost money.

Local lockdowns now cover a third of the population.

But they are failing to stem the spread of the virus because they don't tackle the main sites of transmission—workplaces, schools, colleges and universities.

The Tories want them open, regardless of whether they are safe, because they put profit over people's lives.

LONG QUEUES form outside testing centres

The return to universities and schools drives up infection rates

EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS now account for 45 percent of all positive coronavirus cases in Britain, according to Public Health England (PHE)'s latest surveillance report.

Unsafe reopening of schools, colleges and universities has sent virus cases soaring.

The report, published last week, was based on data from 21 August to 27 September—called week 39.

"In week 39, there were 225 confirmed Covid-19 clusters or outbreaks in educational settings," it said. "The highest number of Covid-19 confirmed clusters or outbreaks were reported through secondary schools."

Its previous report based on data from week 38—between 14 August and 20 September—showed a similar picture.

"The highest increases were noted in the number of incidents in educational and workplace settings," it said.

Office for National Statistics figures suggest that around 30,000 school students are currently infected with the virus.

It's estimated that more than 2,500 schools across Britain had

costs associated with the virus. This includes increased cleaning and hiring supply teachers to replace staff who are isolating.

President of the NAHT union Ruth Davies said the costs are "all having to be met from existing funds".

She said the "unreliable" test and trace system leaves teachers self-isolating for longer while waiting for results. "Head teachers don't know from one day to the next what level of staffing they are going to have," she said.

The crisis is hitting the most vulnerable children the hardest. Nearly a fifth of students with special educational needs are not in school.

Gillian Doherty from the Send Action group said some disabled children "have not been permitted to return or have been put on part-time timetables".

"Other children have had the provision they rely on to access education reduced or removed," she said.

But disgracefully, resources are available for hated inspectorate Ofsted to restart inspections of schools from January.

seen an outbreak.

A survey by the Times Education Supplement found that half of the 7,582 teaching staff surveyed felt "drained and exhausted". A third said they were "just about coping" while 15 percent were "physically and mentally on the brink".

Head teachers say they don't have the money to meet the extra

Big rise in cases among health workers in London

RATES of coronavirus infection among hospital and care home workers in London have risen more than fivefold over the past month.

And scientists fear that similar rises may be taking place in other areas of Britain.

The figures came from the Francis Crick Institute, a leading biomedical research centre.

"It is very, very worrying," said Professor Charles Swanton, who helped set up the institute's testing service.

"Keeping hospitals and care homes free of the virus is crucial but these figures suggest we are heading in the wrong direction."

In August, just under 0.1 percent of the daily tests carried out by the Institute were positive.

By the end of September this had risen to 0.7 percent.

Dr Sam Barrell from the institute said this is "at least a fivefold increase".

Health workers at risk from infection

"It suggests that a higher rate of transmission may be occurring in hospitals and care homes than in the community in general," she said.

Swanton described how a senior clinician was surprised at his positive test result.

"He found it hard to believe because he wasn't experiencing symptoms," said Swanton.

"Nevertheless he went into quarantine and a few days later began to show clear

signs that he had Covid.

"If we had not tested him and shown he was infectious, he would have spent several days spreading the virus inside his hospital."

The findings show the importance of testing to contain the virus.

Yet the Tories refuse to invest in a proper test and trace system.

This leaves many people spreading the virus unknowingly.

Eating out helped the virus

BORIS Johnson has admitted that the Tories' Eat Out to Help Out scheme "may have helped to spread the virus".

The scheme saw the government subsidise meals eaten out on certain days throughout August to boost hospitality bosses' profits.

Yet a Public Health England report published last week said, "Since 10 August, people who test positive are also asked about places they have been and activities they have done in the

days before becoming unwell. Eating out was the most commonly reported activity in the 2-7 days prior to symptom onset."

The report said that it can't say for definite where people become infected. But it said the information "may be helpful to indicate possible places where transmission is happening".

Chancellor Rishi Sunak told the Sun "newspaper" that he had "no regrets" about the scheme.

New mothers at extra risk

THE TORIES' failure to invest in health care means support is being snatched away from new mothers.

Health visitors are being forced to care for up to 2,400 families with newborn babies

at once—ten times the recommended number.

Cheryl Adams from the Institute of Health Visiting said, "In the last five years we have seen the number of health visitors cut by 30 percent."

There were 6,931

full time equivalent health visitors in England last year, compared to 10,309 in October 2015.

Adams said that mothers would be at "much greater risk" of mental illness and that infanticide figures could also rise.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

LABOUR DOESN'T WANT TO SPOOK THE ESTABLISHMENT

GARY HAGGARTY, a member of the pro-British paramilitary organisation the Ulster Volunteer Force in Northern Ireland, worked as a paid agent of Special Branch cops.

In 2017 he pleaded guilty to 202 crimes, and asked that 301 others be taken into consideration. These included five murders.

Under a proposed new law from the Tories, as a paid informant he could have been given immunity in advance for his crimes.

MIS has long had a policy of allowing its officers and informants to participate in criminal activity. But the Tories want to sort out the legal rules to fend off justice campaigners.

The problem is that the government is right to insist that it will "underpin the longstanding work of intelligence and law enforcement agencies".

There is the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane, a Belfast lawyer who was shot 14 times by Loyalists involved in British state collusion.

British agents provided the information and the weapons for this and numerous other killings. There is Naa'imur Zakariyah

Rahman, jailed for life in 2018 for plotting to kill then prime minister Theresa May. Spooks and cops provided Rahman with what he thought was a jacket and rucksack packed with explosives.

There are the spy cops who bugged, burgled and bribed.

They spied on murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence's family. And they formed sexual relationships with activists from various campaigns to get information. They encouraged crime to entrap activists.

There are many other crimes committed by cops and spooks in Britain and abroad. The new legislation puts them all on a legal footing.

And it even extends the list of people who can authorise crimes

“
Spy cops have bugged, burgled and bribed

to include the Food Standards Agency and the Gambling Commission.

Labour bravely called for abstention on the bill. It supports putting into law the licence to commit a crime.

Labour's cunning plan is, as with the bill to legalise torture last month, to allow the legislation to progress but to press the government for "robust safeguards".

This is as useless as it is dangerous.

It is a deliberate attempt to go along with right wing legislation to show that Keir Starmer's Labour is a safe pair of hands.

To be fair, Labour opponents of the bill forced a vote on the second reading on Monday night. The Unite union made a point of calling for opposition.

The result was that 19 Labour MPs voted against the bill. The rest rushed to catch last orders at the bar.

That the left in parliament has quickly returned to a small number of people with some principles is a shame—but also a lesson. Our ability to defend ourselves against the state will not come from Labour.

A FAILURE OF THE SYSTEM

THE TORIES have repeatedly tried to scapegoat ordinary people to avoid responsibility for their own mishandling of the pandemic.

But it's Boris Johnson and his ministers who have peddled policies that killed tens of thousands of people and threaten many more lives.

Now the government wants to shrug off its responsibility for the economic crisis.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak's Job Support Scheme will replace the furlough at the end of October.

But, as he himself admits, not all jobs will be saved. Instead, he unveiled this week a course in how to write your CV and succeed in interviews.

It's both grossly inadequate—and seeks to shift responsibility onto individuals.

If people are unemployed, it's not because they are failing to present themselves properly.

There is just one job vacancy for every ten workers currently on furlough. The Tories would like us to concentrate on competing to secure the scarce jobs that do

exist. But the only viable strategy is collective resistance.

However well they prepare for an interview, the 5,500 Cineworld workers in Britain will not find another job easily.

Nor will a boost to careers guidance help millions more people who face redundancy.

We shouldn't blame ordinary people for the spread of coronavirus.

And we should insist that it is the profit system that destroy jobs and wrecks lives, not the faults of individuals.

Breakfast in

Sign up to our morning newsletter Breakfast in Red and get the latest news every day.

For updates and analysis on the stories that matter go to socialistworker.co.uk/breakfastinred



ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



European economies are headed for crash

THE POLITICAL disarray the pandemic is causing in Britain and the United States has made the European Union (EU) look good by comparison.

But the EU's relative political stability is largely a consequence of its fundamentally undemocratic character.

This was summed up by the former German finance minister and architect of austerity, Wolfgang Schäuble. During the Greek debt crisis in 2015 he said, "Elections cannot be allowed to change economic policy."

Discontent may rise at a national level in electoral successes for the far right or the radical left. But impenetrable and unaccountable EU decision-making processes limit their impact across Europe.

Behind this political facade the European economy is rotting away.

The German export powerhouse continues to drive the eurozone, but its core industries are vulnerable to global technological competition. Established car firms such as Volkswagen are struggling to keep up with the development of electric cars, where outsiders such as Tesla are making the running. And Europe lacks anything comparable to the US and Chinese IT giants.

But there's a more immediate problem. The eurozone is slipping into deflation—prices are falling. This reflects the impact of the economic depression precipitated by the pandemic. Goldman Sachs now predicts that the eurozone will contract by 7.9 percent this year.

Consumer price inflation was -0.3 percent in September, down from -0.2 percent in August. Deflation was worst in some highly-indebted member states that were the target of austerity policies during the eurozone crisis of the 2010s. It was running at -2.3 percent in Greece, -1.1 percent in Ireland, -0.9 percent in Italy and -0.6 percent in Spain.

This represents a serious problem for the European Central Bank (ECB). It's been a long time since it met its target of inflation below or close to 2 percent. "The European Central Bank has completely lost control of the inflation process," says Ashoka Mody, the International Monetary Fund's former European deputy director.

Inflation

From the perspective of neoliberalism, which emerged in response to the combined rise in inflation and mass unemployment in the 1970s, falling prices might seem like a good thing. But this isn't so, because falling prices make debt harder to service.

Back in the 1930s the American economist Irving Fisher developed what he called the "debt-deflation theory of great depressions".

He argued that economic crises begin with high levels of debt. Economic actors try to cut their debt by reducing spending and in some cases go bankrupt. This leads to falling prices, which increases the value of the debt. There follows a vicious downward spiral of more bankruptcies and falling output, pushing prices further down and debt up.

As Fisher put it, "Each dollar of debt still unpaid becomes a bigger dollar, and if the over-indebtedness with which we started was great enough, the liquidation of debts cannot keep up with the fall of prices which it causes. In that case, the liquidation defeats itself."

"While it diminishes the number of dollars owed, it may not do so as fast as it increases the value of each dollar owed. Then, the very effort of individuals to lessen their burden of debts increases it, because of the mass effect of the stampede to liquidate in swelling each dollar owed."

The OECD group of leading economies' worst-case scenario predicts debt-to-GDP ratios next year reaching 229 percent in Greece, 192 percent in Italy and 158 percent in Portugal.

The ECB and other central banks reacted to the pandemic by stepping up their policy of pumping cheap money into the economy. ECB president Christine Lagarde advocates allowing inflation to overshoot its target to compensate for the current deflation. But cheap credit is keeping alive many unprofitable "zombie firms" highly vulnerable if the economic situation worsens.

The EU agreed on a highly-touted "Recovery Fund" to help the worst hit economies, but this looks set to be too little too late. Europe won't continue to look good.

Tory chancellor Rishi Sunak is handing presents to the bosses

Activists organise resistance amid unemployment horror

TORY CHANCELLOR Rishi Sunak's pro-business measures will not stop millions of people facing the threat of mass unemployment this autumn.

Sunak announced the £238 million jobs entry targeted support (Jets) scheme at the Tory party virtual conference on Monday.

It will provide coaching on how to write CVs and give interviews to workers who have been unemployed for at least three months.

Sunak claimed, "Our unprecedented support has protected millions of livelihoods and businesses since the start of the pandemic."

But he warned, "I've always been clear that we can't save every job."

Failings

Hundreds of thousands of people cannot find jobs because of Tory policy—not individual failings around CV writing or interview skills.

Big business is determined to protect its profits and make working class people pay for the coronavirus crisis.

A new coalition of Labour MPs, trade unionists and campaigners are organising a "fightback to demand ordinary people won't pay for the crisis".

The People Before Profit group launched the emergency programme for jobs, services and safety

on Tuesday of last week. Left wing Labour MPs John McDonnell and Bell Ribeiro-Addy were among the speakers demanding a socialist response to the coronavirus crisis.

McDonnell told the

meeting that "we need an emergency programme and to start resisting" to face the "health threat and the threat to jobs".

McDonnell slammed Sunak's plans to axe the furlough scheme as "brutal"

when "we're on the edge of a major recession".

The government's new job retention scheme leaves millions of workers facing mass unemployment after furlough ends on 31 October.

"We're demanding the furlough scheme is extended for at least 12 months," said McDonnell.

He backed tax rises "on the top 5 percent" and argued support for corporations should have conditions, including "no dividends payments, and, if necessary taking a public stake".

The programme also demands "an immediate programme of green investment" to "end dependency on fossil fuels and provide a million climate jobs".

And it says we need to re-purpose "industries like aviation, car production and engineering to urgently address the climate crisis".

The whole programme could be paid for through "a massive transfer of resources from the rich".

People Before Profit has set up local launch meetings and days of action for workplace safety and jobs on Friday and Saturday.

It plans a further day of action on 31 October, when the furlough scheme ends.

Go to People Before Profit on Facebook and peoplebefore-profit.com for more information

Bosses launch cuts

MORE THAN a third of businesses plan to slash jobs this autumn, according to a survey published last week.

Around 60 percent of managers from firms with more than 250 workers said they planned redundancies this year.

And some 37 percent of all managers said they were likely to lay off workers by the end of the year.

In a warning of the carnage that is to come, Cineworld announced last weekend that it will shut its US and British cinemas. This puts 5,500 workers at Cineworld and Picturehouse cinemas out of work—as well as cleaners and security staff employed by subcontractors.

Meanwhile, the

number of Universal Credit (UC) claims rejected because people had too much money in savings was ten times higher in March 2020 compared to last year.

Around 6,300 claims were closed before any payment—up from 610 in March 2019—according to figures obtained by the i newspaper last week.

Students protest as coronavirus spreads across college campus

by SOPHIE SQUIRE

AS COVID-19 outbreaks spread across Britain, students and staff are gearing up for a fightback against universities that have put profits before safety.

Northumbria University last week confirmed that 770 students had tested positive for Covid-19 and are now all self-isolating.

Some 11 staff members had also tested positive for the virus.

Meanwhile in catered halls in Nottingham, students are reporting that life “feels like a prison”.

One student said that the first they knew of the lockdown was a note being passed under their door.

They added that anyone who leaves their rooms is shouted at by security.

At the end of last month, it was reported that up to 1,700 students at Manchester Metropolitan University were self-isolating.

And as of Sunday, 380 students had tested positive for the virus at The University of Manchester.

In the city a crowd of around 40 gathered outside accommodation where students were in isolation on Friday of last week.

A group of students held inside joined from behind a fence and held up a banner that read “students before profit”.

One student in university accommodation told the crowd, “Not only are we upset about how we’ve been treated in lockdown, we’ve received emails really slowly about guidance.”

“Provision should have been put in place before we came to university, yet nothing was planned.”

“And we are still paying nine grand. Online lectures are not like the real thing and yet they expect us to pay the same. We’re angry about it.”

Callum is a college student and member of Socialist Worker Student Society in Manchester.

They told Socialist Worker, “People were definitely pissed off about the way in which the students are being kept in lockdown. MMU keeps changing the rules without much notice.”

“The overall message of the protest was to put students’ health and education before profit.”

“The other message was for the Tories to stop scapegoating the students for the growth of Covid-19.”

In Glasgow students organised a protest—that up to 30 people attended—outside Murano halls of residence on Saturday, where students are currently isolating.

Roger, a student at Glasgow university, told Socialist Worker,

Protesting in Manchester last week

BACK STORY

Students returning to university campuses have been forced to isolate after cases shot up

● Many students have not been given proper guidelines or support by university bosses

● Protests across Britain have shown anger at bosses’ prioritising profit over safety

● Plans have not been put in place to stop transmission, leaving thousands of students at risk

“Today’s protests were a display of solidarity, which many students felt that they needed.”

“The chants, banners and interventions demonstrated solidarity to the students in the halls, many of whom have tested positive.”

Universities and colleges are gambling with students’ health in the pursuit of profit.

Only a collective response by students and staff will challenge this.

Callum added, “It’s important to keep up the momentum.”

“I think that the whole A-Levels scandal proves that when there are protests and a fightback big enough then the Tories will concede.”



On other pages...

Trump’s four years of horror
>>Pages 10&11

GREECE

Students occupy against an unsafe return to schools and the government

by NICK CLARK

STUDENTS HAVE occupied more than 700 schools across Greece, forcing them to close, in protest at the unsafe push to return.

Occupations began earlier in September, days after schools reopened, and spread across the country. They are demanding reduced class sizes, more teachers and cleaners, and safer conditions, and are supported in many places by teachers’ unions and parents’ groups.

Students and teachers marched in many towns and cities on Thursday of last week including in Athens, where police teargassed the demonstration, and Greece’s second city Thessaloniki. Teachers’ unions called a stoppage so that their members could join the marches.

The central demand is for class sizes to be cut to 15.

One student in Athens told Socialist Worker’s sister newspaper Workers Solidarity, “We cannot sit two at a desk with so many children in small rooms and be

told to keep our distance.

“Within a week the hand sanitiser ran out and wasn’t replaced. The masks provided by the government are huge and useless in the end, and we are forced to buy our own.”

The occupations come after a steady increase in coronavirus infections in Greece since the end of July. Infections peaked at 453 new cases on 22 September.

Greece was hailed as a success story at the beginning of the pandemic as cases stayed relatively low. But cases began to rise as the right wing New Democracy government pushed to reopen the tourist industry.

The government has now banned gatherings of more than nine people outdoors, but still insists on class sizes of 25 students.

It has tried to break the sit-ins by demanding that all students at occupied schools attend online classes or be marked absent. It also wants to make them attend classes on weekends and holidays.

One student in Athens told Workers Solidarity, “We intend to continue the occupation if our

demands are not met.

“They can’t forbid us to gather in groups of more than nine people in the squares, at a time when we are so many children in a class.”

Teachers have also protested at unsafe conditions and poor staffing levels, and union activists are pushing for strikes.

And the students’ occupations are starting to show more generalised anger towards the government.

Some occupations are starting to take on wider demands including the jailing of leaders of Nazi party Golden Dawn, and opposing threats of war with Turkey.

And others oppose a recent government decision to buy 18 new fighter jets from France amid threats of war with neighbouring Turkey. Students say they plan to march on Wednesday of next week, as a longrunning trial of Golden Dawn politicians finally comes to an end.

In a video that went viral across Greece, one student protester said, “We are motivated by the irresponsible political attitude of the government.”



Woman's rape and murder sees mass revulsion across India

Hundreds take to the streets to denounce violence against women after an attack in Uttar Pradesh

A WAVE of anger at police, politicians and caste violence has spread across India after four upper-caste men allegedly raped and murdered a low-caste Dalit woman.

Manisha Valmiki, 19 years old, was assaulted in a field near her home in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh at the end of last month.

The men who attacked Manisha tried to strangle her and broke her spine.

She died in hospital shortly after but police refused to allow Manisha's family to bury her.

To prevent any public show of anger during her funeral they barricaded the family in their house and quickly incinerated the body.

State politicians and police then systematically sought to downplay the murder.

Though the police had custody of four suspects, they refused to charge them with rape. Only later, after Manisha briefly regained consciousness, did they level any charges at all.

Allegiances

Many suspect caste allegiances are behind the police's tardiness, and that caste hatred is behind the attack.

Uttar Pradesh's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, belongs to the same caste group as the accused, and he uses his upper caste prestige as a way of buying votes at election times.

Adityanath is a hard right supporter of the BJP party and Hindu chauvinism.

His defence of caste privileges has encouraged an outpouring of violence, particularly against lower caste women.

Radical left activist Kavita Krishnan says Manisha's case is not unique and that there is "structural violence" against women of India's 200 million low-caste Dalits.

Discrimination in jobs, education and social life is widespread and tacitly supported by the key

BACK STORY

Women in India have been leading the fightback not only against sexism but also racism

● At the beginning of last year millions of women lined the streets on the national highway 66 to demand women's equality. The line was said to be over 300 miles long

● The protest was also to fight against a ban that prevented women of menstruating age from entering one of the country's Hindu temples

institutions of Indian society—despite many laws which are supposed to safeguard Dalit rights.

Anger at the case brought hundreds out in the streets of Delhi last week, and had a huge impact on social media.

As a result all manner of political forces are attempting to jump on an issue previously raised only by the left.

The Congress party, India's mainstream opposition, announced this week that it would hold protests in the spirit of Gandhi's passive resistance movement.

More farcically, the fascist Shiv Sena group, held a "candle lit march" in Uttar Pradesh last weekend.

Shiv Sena is deeply entwined with the BJP and Yogi Adityanath.

India's hard right is desperate to whip up fear and division, including encouraging anti-Muslim violence and fanning the flames of caste prejudice.

This reflects a growing disillusionment with the BJP government and its handling of the coronavirus and the economy.

The left must find ways of tying together all the strands of resistance in a bid to hit back.



On other pages...

Donald Trump's four years of horror >> Pages 10&11

Protests raged around the country after this case hit national headlines

Conflict threatens war in the Caucasus

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

ROCKETS AND shells have hit major cities in Armenia and Azerbaijan over the weekend as border clashes brought the whole region closer to war.

Armenian forces shelled Azerbaijan's second largest city, Ganja, claiming to have hit its military airport.

Azerbaijan reported that up to 30 people were injured and one killed in the attack.

Azerbaijan claims to have retaken seven villages and shelled Stepanakert, the capital of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region inside its borders.

It has been ruled by Armenian separatist forces since declaring independence in 1991.

The collapse of Stalinist Russia triggered the Nagorno-Karabakh War between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A ceasefire in 1994 left the Armenian military in control of the region and surrounding areas.

The fighting between Russian-backed Armenia and Turkish-backed Azerbaijan threatens a wider war in the Caucasus, home to oil and gas pipelines.

Russia and Turkey are competing partly over control of exports of gas to European markets.

Damage in Stepanakert

FIGURE IT OUT

7 Golden Dawn's percentage vote at the Greek general election in September 2015

2.9 Golden Dawn's percentage vote at the Greek general election in 2019

0.5 Golden Dawn's percentage vote in a Greek general election according to latest opinion polling

Golden Dawn Nazis judged

THE BIGGEST trial of fascist criminals since Nazi Germany's leadership was tried in 1946 was set to come to an end in Greece on Wednesday.

The verdict will come after a five-year trial of members of Golden Dawn, the Greek Nazi party that rapidly grew in the aftermath of the financial crisis in the country.

The trial began two years after the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas, who was stabbed by a Golden Dawn member in Piraeus on 18 September 2013.

A number of party members—including leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos—were arrested in the weeks that followed.

Some 69

members—including 18 who were then MPs—went on trial on charges of running a criminal organisation.

One defendant has now died.

Anti-racist organising has greatly weakened Golden Dawn.

Supporters of Greek anti-fascist organisation, Keerfa, were set to protest on Wednesday.

College advice led to outbreak

STUDENTS AT the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) have been encouraged back to university. This was through claims the authorities have “thought of everything” and they are “Covid-19 free campuses”.

However, without warning 1,500 students have been locked in MMU halls.

The only message they’ve received was from the Vice Chancellor saying the protest signs they had put in their windows were “illegal”.

The university’s unclear and unsafe rules are what has caused a rise in Covid-19, not students themselves.

Not only are students paying full rent and full education fees they have less teaching and fewer opportunities for making friends.

Universities bought us back to Manchester on the promise of face-to-face teaching.

This is already being debated due to the six person rule.

We wanted to show our solidarity to students trapped in halls and to say no to blaming students, high fees and staff redundancies.

We held an emergency Zoom meeting last Friday and a protest after outside the halls of residence.

We must ensure that what happened at MMU happens nowhere else and that students are adequately compensated.

Fran
University of Manchester



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Don't let them copy Australia's offshore detention centres

HOME SECRETARY Priti Patel's proposal to dump asylum seekers on the remote volcanic outcrop of Ascension Island is mimicking Australia's racist refugee policy.

Australia's offshore detention regime sees people who seek asylum by boat being held indefinitely in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

These are places where Australia continues its neo-colonial hold.

Refugees have been detained there for over seven years, and 13 people have died.

Hamid Kahazei died of lack of treatment for an infected cut foot. Reza Barati was murdered in an attack by guards, while others have killed themselves in despair.

Amnesty International describes Australia's offshore detention

camps as “akin to torture”. Patel's proposal has been described as “implausible”.

That doesn't mean it can't happen if the Tories decide the politics is worth the cost.

Australia's offshore detention regime has been hugely costly. But it happened.

Patel has also used Australia's (Tory) Coalition political playbook, describing refugees as “illegal migrants”.

But it is not illegal to seek asylum, regardless of the means of arrival.

The refugee movement in Australia has had some wins as a result of mass protest and union action.

These included a teachers' walkout for refugees and a union blockade of a hospital to prevent a

baby treated for burns being sent offshore.

While the struggle is far from over, all families and children have been brought from Nauru to Australia. And hundreds of refugees have now been brought to Australia for medical treatment.

Anything that can be done to prevent Patel's “brainstorming” from becoming a living nightmare will matter.

In Australia, Labor's support for offshore detention has helped fuel the Tories' cruelty and racism.

The “Australian solution” is not a model to emulate.

Australia's detention regime should be seen with the same international disgust as apartheid was in South Africa.

Chris Breen
Member of Solidarity in Victoria, Australia

Just a thought...

Remember Bloody Sunday

I'VE HEARD first hand accounts from people who lived through the British army's occupation of Northern Ireland and saw the army behaviour on Bloody Sunday. I'm not excusing violence from any quarter.

These were people on a protest, including kids. They were shot in the back running away.

They were unarmed and illegally killed by bullets. And soldiers laughed and patted each other on the backs.

The British army is a cold blooded army that I am not proud of.

Sharron Smyth
On Facebook

●THE CULPRIT is the British State. They sent the troops to Northern Ireland to control Catholics.

They interned innocent men for the crime of being Catholic.

They carried out undercover assassinations. The soldiers are their agents, acting under orders.

Philip Foxe
On Facebook

Corbyn didn't fight the right

JEREMY Corbyn opened the door to Keir Starmer.

He refused to wage a struggle against the Blairites, of which Starmer is a personification.

Thousands of members wanted a struggle to drive these scoundrels out. The refusal by Corbyn to pursue one led to Starmer.

David
On Twitter

Miscarriages aren't shameful

IT IS terrible that some people online were condemning celebrity Chrissy Teigen for posting on social media about losing her baby due to pregnancy complications.

Miscarriages and stillbirths are often taboo in our deeply sexist society that criticises women for almost everything they do.

Women should be able to share their experiences and trauma and people shouldn't ratify the idea that it is something to be hidden away.

Bethany Pugh
Southampton

Trump win was about more than adverts

ACCORDING TO a recent Channel 4 investigation Donald Trump's 2016 campaign used data mined from social media to target black people.

Ads to this demographic were focused on Hillary Clinton's 1996 racist comments about “super predators”.

The report tries to link Trump's win with the collapse of the Democratic vote in black communities.

But it seems unlikely that

Trump's ads were a bigger factor than disappointment with Barack Obama and the awfulness of Clinton.

Ordinary people are not empty vessels influenced only by the media. US liberals have tried to paint Trump's victory as an aberration that will be fixed by electing Joe Biden.

It was precisely this “normal” in US politics that gave us Trump.

Bethan Turner
East London

Oppose HS2 line and the wider system

WITH THE felling of the 300 year old Hunningham Oak near Leamington Spa and other woodland in Staffordshire, the HS2 rail line continues to ride over people and the environment.

Currently, Jones Hill Wood, near Great Missenden Fox, is in imminent danger.

I was on the camp a few days ago and was inspired by rebels that were prepared to live high up in the trees to protect them.

My experience of the

Extinction Rebellion and Say No to HS2 camps are a glimpse of a society where people share resources and communally look out for each other.

The camps are a hive of discussion, protest poetry and song.

Earlier this summer I was one of those who embarked on the XR Rebel Trail and walked the proposed route of HS2 from Birmingham to London.

The conclusions being drawn by many activists is that the fight cannot stop

with HS2 and that we need to oppose the capitalist system as a whole.

So it's not surprising that the Rebel Trail took the knee on an A road en route and then joined the Black Lives Matter and trans rights demonstrations in London.

The rebels currently in the camps are brave and principled and would welcome support as the HS2 nets close in and winter approaches.

Pat Jones
Huddersfield

TRUMP'S FOUR YEARS OF HORROR

Isabel Ringrose looks at Donald Trump’s four years in the White House, and examines the way in which his every move has been met with a fight from below

DONALD Trump’s presidency has been filled with horror, but also with resistance. His racist, sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic and bigoted rhetoric has led to cuts to public services, a rise of the far right and the threat of nuclear war.

And his neoliberal policies prioritising profits mean the wealth gap in the United States (US) is now the biggest it has been in 50 years.

Trump is also a compulsive liar. As of 29 May he had made an estimated 19,127 false or misleading comments throughout his presidency.

During Trump’s first campaign for the White House he included many populist promises—such as removing corruption from Washington politics by “draining the swamp”.

His vow to “Make America Great Again” and demonisation of media criticism as “fake news” are now catchphrases among his right wing supporters.

Racism has been a central element of both his election campaigns.

During the first 2020 presidential debate he told the Proud Boys—a fascist organisation—to “stand back and stand by”.

He’s also implied he will mobilise racists and elements of the state to be able to cling onto office if he loses the vote. This would be a replay of the 2000 election, stolen by George W Bush from Al Gore, but on a much higher level.

Trump has given confidence to the far right in the US and legitimises racism

that is structured into society. When a white supremacist drove into anti-fascist protesters in Charlottesville in 2017, Trump insisted that there “were very fine people, on both sides”. The racist rally was attended by white supremacists and neo-Nazis.

In 2019 he tweeted that four Democratic members of Congress—all black women—should “go back” to the countries they “came from”.

His racist rhetoric has helped to grow white nationalist hate groups by 55 percent.

Trump’s legacy is one of cruelty and brutality—but his policies have also driven forward historic resistance.

There has been resistance from below to his policies at every turn, so Trump hasn’t always had his way.

Under his presidency the Black Lives Matter movement reached new heights. After the racist police murder of George Floyd in May, millions of people protested in thousands of towns and cities across the US.

“

Racism has been a central element in both of Trump’s election campaigns

BILLIONAIRES such as Amazon’s Jeff Bezos (below) have seen their wealth reach astronomical heights under Trump’s low tax policies. Meanwhile millions of Americans are now relying on food banks (below, right)

ECONOMY

Unemployment up, taxes on rich down

SINCE JANUARY 2017 Trump has falsely boasted over 250 times that the US economy is the best it has ever been.

But between January 2017 and August 2020, unemployment rose from 4.7 percent to 8.4 percent—hitting 14.7 percent in April 2020.

And the national debt rose from £11.4 trillion to £16.1 trillion—despite Trump’s campaign promise to eliminate the national debt within eight years.

It’s the rich who have gained.

When Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017 it reduced the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent.

Official analysis showed that the top 1 percent of taxpayers—who have an income over £566,788 a year—would receive 83 percent of gains from the act by 2027.

HEALTHCARE

Chickens have come home to roost for the virus denier

TRUMP’S HANDLING of the Covid-19 crisis has resulted in over 207,000 deaths in the US and 7.3 million confirmed cases—including himself.

Yet the day before he was diagnosed he lied, “The end of the pandemic is in sight, and next year will be one of the greatest years in the history of our country.”

Trump has pushed for ending state’s lockdown restrictions to reopen the economy by playing down the scale of the pandemic.

And he told the public that injecting bleach into the body would help treat the virus.

But Trump has refused to admit any mistakes of his handling of the outbreak.

Instead he has blamed Democratic state governors and the World Health Organisation.

The president repeatedly vowed to repeal and replace the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA).

Introduced by Barack Obama, it legislated for an extra 24 million people to be covered by health insurance.

Trump’s 2017 tax bill repealed the ACA’s individual health insurance

mandate, meaning citizens were not required to have health insurance. This led to insurance premiums increasing by 10 percent.

Although Trump has not been able to overturn the ACA, he has effectively “let Obamacare fail”, as he threatened to do.

And he hopes that a more right wing Supreme Court might strike down the act as a whole.

His attacks mean there are over 27 million people in the US without healthcare plans, while insurance companies pocket their profits.

IMPERIALISM

Threatening new conflicts worldwide

TRUMP HAS pushed an imperialist agenda—knowing that Democrat presidential hopeful Joe Biden would do much the same.

In particular Trump has tried to blunt the economic and political rise of China.

In 2019 the US raised tariffs on £154 billion worth of Chinese goods and imposed restrictions on Chinese firms in the US.

Trump also withdrew from the Iran Nuclear Deal in 2018. He imposed sanctions on Iran, and maintained them even during the pandemic—meaning Iran is short of vital medicines and equipment.

In 2017 he declared a national emergency over US relations with North Korea, after trade talks failed. But by 2019 boasted that he has an “excellent relationship” with dictator Kim Jong Un.

Trump road roughshod over Palestinian rights when he officially recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in December 2017, relocating the US embassy there.

The US also withdrew from the Human Rights Council because of its supposed “chronic bias against Israel”.

Some five million women joined the 2017 women’s march, including 470,000 in Washington (below)

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Abortion rights in grave danger

TRUMP MAKES little attempt to hide his misogyny. At least 26 women have accused Trump of sexual misconduct.

He is a staunch anti-abortionist.

In 2019 the Trump administration implemented policy restricting public funds given to family planning facilities.

This meant healthcare providers receiving this funding couldn’t tell women about abortion services, or offer the procedure themselves.

Trump has also overseen a campaign to overturn Roe v Wade, the 1973 court ruling that gave women some access to abortion. His efforts mean that abortion has essentially been wiped out in some states.

The “heartbeat bills”, new restrictions, clinic closures and soaring medical fees all make it harder for poorer women to exercise their right to choose.

But his anti-abortion legislation doesn’t stop women having abortions—it means poor women have to access dangerous and illegal procedures.

The opening shot of resistance against his presidency was the January 2017 Women’s March—the second largest protest in US history. Over 5 million people marched, with over 470,000 in Washington DC demanding women’s rights, healthcare reform, and reproductive and LGBT+ rights.

poor hygiene standards, and even sterilisation. He pledged to build a 1,000-mile, concrete wall on the US-Mexico border to keep out “illegal immigrants.”

As of September 2020, 341 miles of wall had been completed—but less than 10 miles is a new construction.

Despite vowing that Mexico would pay for it, the wall project has been financed by the US public purse.

The “zero tolerance” policy towards illegal immigration led Trump to send thousands of border police to stop migrants from entering the US—permitting troops to shoot directly at them.

But Trump’s racist policies have been met with resistance.

The 2017 “Day without immigration” demonstration called for people to not go to work, avoid spending money, and keep children from school.

And thousands of protesters showed up at airports across the US to resist the travel ban.

IMMIGRATION

Declaring war on migrants

TRUMP’S ENDLESS attacks on immigrants have continued throughout his presidency, securing him the title as one of the world’s biggest—and most powerful—racists.

He stuck ruthlessly to a 2016 campaign pledge to set the annual limit for refugees accepted into the US at a record low of 18,000 people.

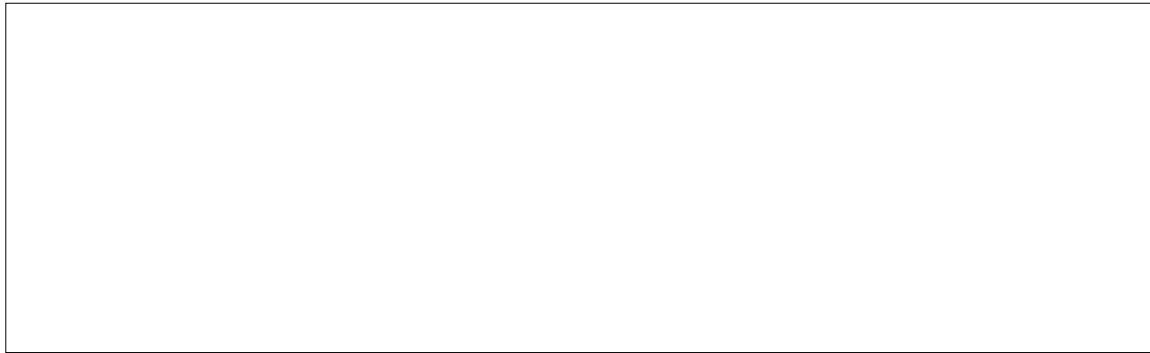
And in his first week in office he brought in his Islamophobic “Muslim-ban”.

It barred entry to refugees for 120 days and stopped citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen from travelling to the US for 90 days.

The Trump administration has also separated more than 5,400 children from their parents at the US–Mexico border.

Children were forced into immigration detention centres and kept in metal cages.

Migrants have endured prolonged detention and overcrowding,



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

Socialist Workers Party online meetings



The Socialist Workers Party is holding online meetings during the coronavirus crisis. This is to ensure that there can still be collective local discussion, organising and actions.

Most of the meetings will be held using the Zoom system. Download the Zoom app onto your phone or computer and just before the time given for your local meeting ask to "Join a meeting".

You can then enter the number printed on this page for the appropriate meeting. **The password for all meetings is 967537.**

Make sure you look at the SWP Facebook page facebook.com/SocialistWorkersParty for news of national online meetings and other updates.

From Black Lives Matter to liberation... How the fight against racism can win

EAST LONDON
Thu 22 Oct, 7.30pm
818 391 0420

MIDLANDS
Wed 21 Oct, 7.30pm
882-5465-0790

SCOTLAND
Thu 22 Oct, 7pm
851-5254-7239

LEEDS & WEST YORKSHIRE
Thu 15 Oct, 7pm
935-5290-8076

NORTH WEST
Wed 21 Oct, 7pm
323-178-7151

SHEFFIELD & SOUTH YORKSHIRE
Thu 22 Oct, 7pm
528-174-9278

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } ONLINE MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and local interventions. All welcome.

BIRMINGHAM
Conspiracy theories and the far right—how should socialists respond?
Wed 14 Oct, 7pm
281-634-5938

BLACK COUNTRY
Toussaint L'Ouverture and the overthrow of slavery
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
352-891-2411

BOLTON AND WIGAN
Conspiracy theories and the far right—how should socialists respond?
Thu 15 Oct, 6.30pm
872-5136-9540

BRIGHTON AND HOVE
Biden, the Democrats and the fight against Trump
Thu 15 Oct, 6pm
818-1857-1448

BRISTOL
Why are the police so racist?
Thu 15 Oct, 7.30pm
688-397-3148
BURNLEY AND PENDLE
Where does racism come from?
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
446-409-5118

CAMBRIDGE
From Black Power to Black Lives Matter
Thu 15 Oct, 7.30pm
681-800-4408

CARDIFF
Conspiracy theories and the far right—how should socialists respond?
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
630-181-4857

CHELMSFORD AND SOUTHEND
The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx
Wed 14 Oct, 7pm
886 8852 6795
CHESTERFIELD
Capitalism, diet and the politics of food
Thu 15 Oct, 6.30pm
829-532-8731

COLCHESTER
The politics of food
Thu 29 Oct, 7pm
872-3074-2363

COVENTRY
Marxism and mental health
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
823-945-1917

DUNDEE, ABERDEEN AND PERTH
Why socialists oppose all border controls
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
894 2628 7708

EAST MIDLANDS
What's behind the uprising in Belarus?
Wed 14 Oct, 7pm
354-874-4790

EDINBURGH
Biden, the Democrats and the fight against Trump
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
431-459-112
EXETER
Where does racism come from?
Wed 14 Oct, 7pm
865-2972-2883

GLASGOW
The legacy of the Haitian Revolution
Thu 15 Oct, 6.30pm
851 5254 7239

HARLOW
The coming economic crisis—how can we make the rich pay?
Thu 22 Oct, 7.30pm
832-8746-7480

HOME COUNTIES
Coronavirus and the economy—how should we pay for the crisis?
Thu 15 Oct, 6pm
837 0931 2098

KENT
The coming economic crisis—can we make the rich pay?
Thu 15 Oct, 8.15pm
434-623-8064
LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE
How slavery was smashed
Thu 15 Oct, 6.30pm
992-204-9372

LIVERPOOL
Conspiracy theories and the far right—how should socialists respond?
Wed 14 Oct, 7pm
493-925-5919

LONDON: HACKNEY
Are we too late to stop catastrophic climate change?
Thu 15 Oct, 7.30pm
798-534-2585

LONDON: ISLINGTON
Transgender resistance, socialism and the fight for liberation
Thu 15 Oct, 7pm
874-012-7970

LONDON: NEWHAM
Workers and the Indian liberation struggle
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A people's history of Hip Hop
Wed 14 Oct, 7pm
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LONDON: SOUTH EAST
The bloody history of the British Empire
Wed 8 Oct, 7pm
529-913-6390

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST
Fake news and alternative facts—how should socialists respond?
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
543-023-057

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How US communists fought racism in the 1930s
Thu 15 Oct, 6pm
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Uprising in Belarus—can workers win?
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Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
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Thu 15 Oct, 7pm
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PLYMOUTH
Trade unions and workers' power—how can we win change?
Thu 22 Oct, 7pm
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PORTSMOUTH
Anger to revolution—what makes people rise up?
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
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Black British rebels—figures from working class history
Thu 15 Oct, 7pm
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SOUTHAMPTON
Biden, the Democrats and the fight against Trump
Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm
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SWANSEA AND WEST WALES
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South African-based novel that's more than a thriller

The Rhino Conspiracy by Peter Hain follows a veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle taking on corruption in the governing elite, writes **Charlie Kimber**

THERE ARE some harsh truths that authors feel they can tell only through fiction.

Peter Hain's new novel the Rhino Conspiracy is a thriller about rhino poaching linked to global criminal syndicates who in turn are linked to corrupt politicians. The rot goes right to the top of the South African state.

It merges ecological themes with a wider portrait of politicians whose interest is in enriching themselves. It's a cry of rage about what has happened to the dreams about progress when Nelson Mandela came to power.

Hain, brought up in South Africa, came to Britain when his anti-apartheid parents were forced into exile. He became a prominent campaigner against apartheid.

He has remained a friend of the African National Congress (ANC). But he uses his book to deliver a brutal denunciation of the present set-up.

His central character is "the Veteran"—a thinly-disguised version of Ronnie Kasrils. Kasrils was a leading figure in the armed struggle against apartheid, then cabinet minister and today is an outspoken critic of ANC governments.

The Veteran tells us that, "Apartheid had gone, but a corrupt police service had been reincarnated."

Later the Veteran is warned by the state, receiving "exactly the sort of warning letters the old apartheid Minister of Police used to issue to anti-apartheid activists".

He considers the Marikana massacre of 2012 when striking miners were shot down by police.

The killers were "not the white supremacist police of old but predominantly black police officers directed by a black police chief appointed by the majority black government of his own ANC."

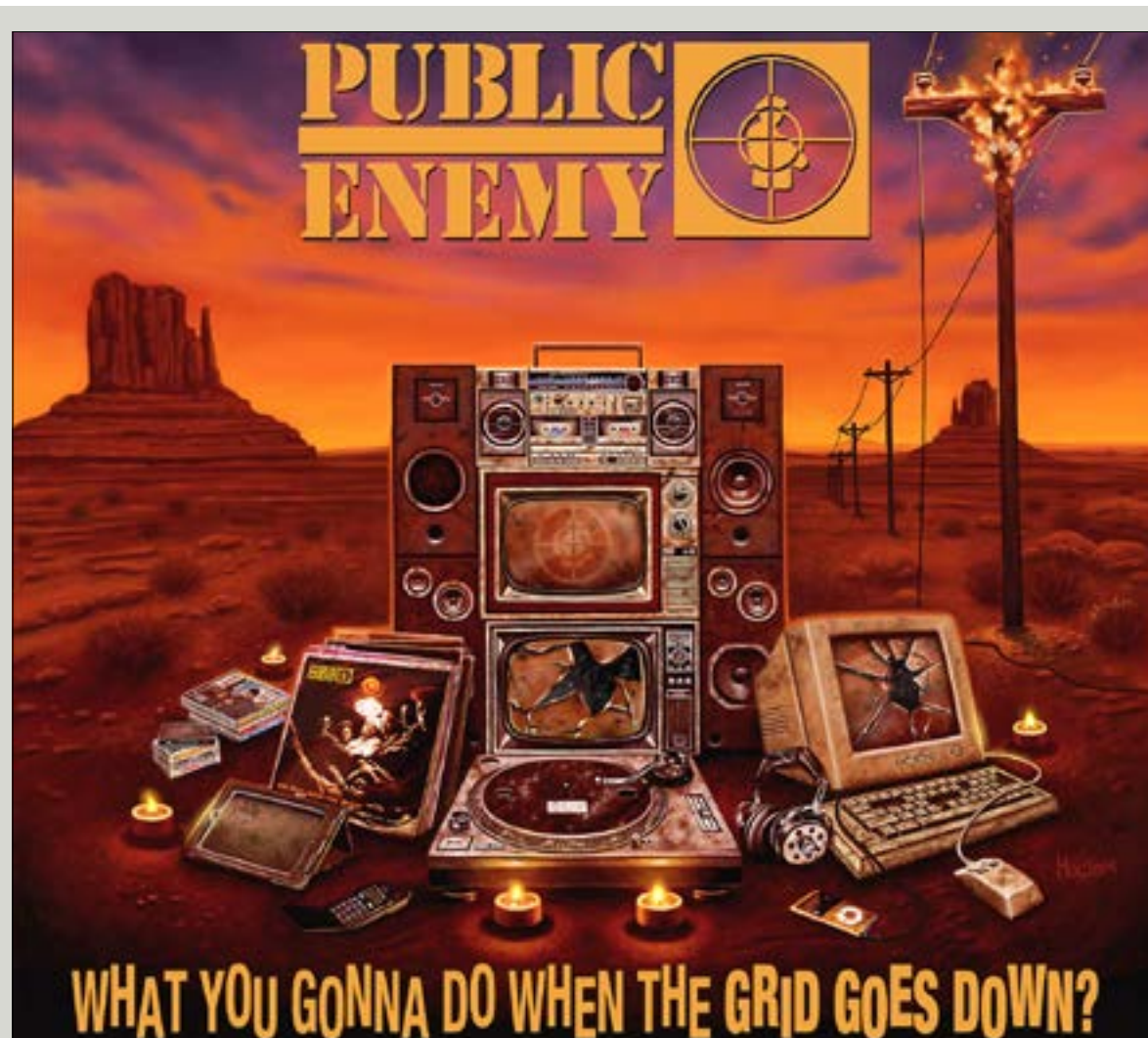
Much of the time the Veteran contrasts the present with what he sees as the much better governments of Mandela and Thabo Mbeki.

It's therefore devastating when the Veteran muses towards the end of the book, "Perhaps it arose from something even deeper within the foundations of the 'Mandela miracle'?"

"The transformation, the Veteran considered, had been a 'Faustian pact' in which democratic majority rule had been conceded in return for maintaining the power of the predominantly white economic elite. Which had then, as part of the pact, co-opted a new black economic elite."

The novel tells us harsh truths about the limitations of the changes after the fall of apartheid.

The Rhino Conspiracy by Peter Hain, £14.99. Available from Bookmarks—call 020 7637 1848



PUBLIC ENEMY'S latest album cover harks back to past glories

A nostalgic album for new struggles

MUSIC

WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE GRID GOES DOWN?

by Public Enemy. Out now

FANS HAVE been waiting for Public Enemy to drop their new album What you Gonna Do When The Grid Goes Down? since they returned to the Def Jam label in August.

No doubt, Chuck D has managed to inject serious, hard lyrics to match the current pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement.

Never one to shy away from complex political issues, Chuck D hits back hard against the establishment and US elite throughout the album.

But unlike the early Public Enemy this album doesn't have the energy to inspire millions.

The album has several high points.

Listening to State of the Union for the first time made me feel like Public Enemy had returned to '90s Brooklyn.

Collaborations with Cypress Hill, Nas and Mike D are all also welcome. But prioritising nostalgia hasn't appeared to win the fans over.

The track Rest in Beats made it clear to me that this is about trying to inject Public Enemy's past experiences and talents into the new wave of struggle.

One track definitely overshadows the whole album. Public Enemy have remixed the

classic Fight The Power, 31 years after the Original was released.

With police brutality in the headlines and Trump in the White House the track couldn't have landed at a better time.

The addition of the female artist Rapsody and their incredible flow really makes this track special.

It's a shame that most of the other tracks don't include female artists.

But the lyrics, "Our fight and our rights for freedom will never wane, but justice for Breonna Taylor, Salute Chuck and Flava" and, "The next generation still singing, 'Fight the Power'" show that Public Enemy will always be part of the struggle.

Sam Ord

DOCUMENTARY

IN COLD BLOOD

Available now at itv.com

IN COLD Blood—a new ITV documentary—is now available online.

It examines what has been called the biggest treatment disaster in NHS history. Thousands of British haemophiliacs were infected and died from HIV and Hepatitis C after being prescribed infected blood products.

The documentary aired as a public inquiry into the scandal reopened.

The programme features new evidence unearthed by Jason Evans, a campaigner whose father died from Hepatitis C and Aids.

These include receipts



Jason Evans

for the destruction of files relating to an alleged government cover-up of the prescription of tainted blood products.

FILM

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS

Available now at bbc.co.uk/iplayer

BRUNO, AN eight year old boy from Berlin, Germany, is moved with his mother, Elder sister, and SS Commander father to the countryside.

There, his father is in charge of a concentration camp for Jews as part of the



Shmuel

Nazi Holocaust.

Bruno goes exploring one day and befriends a child his age named Shmuel—a Jewish boy imprisoned in the camp.

Through stolen trips to see his friend the inhuman realities of the situation gradually come into sharper focus.

The tension slowly builds towards an excruciating and stomach-churning climax to the film.

FOR MONTHS the states competing over control of the eastern Mediterranean—and the gas fields there—have danced on the edges of war.

Control of the gas is lucrative. But the bigger prize is dominance and influence in a part of the world that's crucial to what happens in the Middle East.

States and empires—including Britain—have jostled and fought over the eastern Mediterranean for decades.

Cyprus, right at the heart of the eastern Mediterranean, has often been at the centre of that.

Generations of Cypriots—Greek and Turkish—have been treated as pawns in a much bigger political game, buffeted about and divided by ethnicity.

And Britain has a major stake in it.

Cyprus gained independence from the British Empire 60 years ago last week. But even now Britain still owns big chunks of the island.

Cyprus is where British warplanes fly from whenever they're sent to bomb neighbouring Syria or Iraq.

Without military bases in Akrotiri and Dhekelia, Britain wouldn't be able to play quite the same role as it does in the US's wars in the Middle East.

B RITAIN WAS given Cyprus by the Ottoman Empire in 1878. It's just one instance in which ordinary Cypriot people were treated as bargaining chips by imperial powers.

Under the deal, Britain would side with the Ottoman Empire against invasions by Russia.

In return, it got an island that helped it control access to Egypt's Suez Canal—and therefore a trading route to its colony India.

Britain occupied Palestine for the same reason in another major imperial carve up at the end of the First World War.

Britain ruled Cyprus in a way that kept its two nationalities—Greek and Turkish—politically separate, but both impoverished.

Although Cyprus has never been part of Greece, the majority of its population shared a Greek language, history and culture.

The substantial Turkish minority settled later after the Ottoman Empire conquered Cyprus. After more than 300 years on the island, most saw Cyprus—not Turkey—as their long-established home.

Greek and Turkish Cypriots tended to live in separate villages or neighbourhoods. But most of their history together on the island was peaceful.

British colonial rule and competing imperial interests combined to push them towards war.

CYPRIOTS HOLD up pictures of missing relatives in 1974 after an attempted coup

HOW BRITISH IMPERIALISM SPLIT CYPRUS

With Turkey and Greece the closest to conflict than they have been in years Nick Clark explains why Cyprus has been such a focus for imperialist powers, especially Britain

Richmond Palmer

A regime of raising taxes that siphoned off money to Britain kept Cypriot workers and peasants in poverty.

Middle class Cypriots—Greek and Turkish—saw that they could be wealthier once they were free of British rule.

But they were divided by allegiance to the ruling classes of Greece and Turkey, who competed to be the dominant regional power in the eastern Mediterranean.

Middle class Greeks wanted “enosis”—unification with Greece as part of a project to build a larger Greek state.

“**Britain's colonial rule cemented division at the top**

Their Turkish opposites wanted to divide Cyprus, with their portion aligned to Turkey.

Britain's colonial rule cemented this division at the top and drove it down through Cypriot society. A legislative council allowed Cypriots a limited form of government.

But this was divided on racial lines, with se ats allocated on the basis of ethnicity—the majority to Greeks.

The British rulers also kept parts of the Ottoman Empire's “ethnarchy” system, which treated religious leaders as political representatives of their

communities.

The Communist Party of Cyprus—which was mostly Greek—tried to organise struggles among Greek and Turkish workers. But it also had to deal with a nationalist movement for enosis, organised by Greek Cypriot politicians and religious leaders in resistance to British rule.

Using Cyprus as a bargaining chip once again, Britain offered the island to Greece as a bribe to join the First World War on its side. When the Greek government refused, Britain's rulers dropped their backing for enosis—and Greek Cypriot politicians felt betrayed.

When Britain raised taxes on Cypriots in 1931, Greek archbishop Nikodemos called for rallies and disobedience against British rule. Thousands of mostly middle class Greeks marched in the capital Nicosia and burned down the main government building.

It took the British army weeks to crush the rioting that followed.

British colonial ruler Richmond Palmer then enforced a repressive new regime. He jailed or fined more than 2,000 Cypriots and banned all political parties.

The Greek nationalists tried again after the Second World War. The British Empire was declining, thanks partly to liberation movements in its colonies across the world, and thanks partly to the rise of the US.

Cypriot Greek nationalists wanted to be part of a Greece that they hoped would be a key partner for the US in the eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans against Stalinist Russia.

B RITAIN'S rulers were desperate to hold on to the last bits of their crumbling empire. They also worried that resistance movements would replace colonial rule with governments aligned with Russia.

Yet the Communist Party had merged into a broader party, Akel, and now supported demands for enosis. It even approached the leaders of the right wing Greek nationalist movement for cooperation.

In 1950 the Greek ethnarchy council, led by Archbishop Makarios, organised an unofficial referendum on unity with Greece. It was held only among Greek Cypriots, with voting by signature books placed in Greek Orthodox churches.

A huge majority—95 per cent—voted for Enosis, with some coercion by the church.

It was followed by a demonstration and an insistence that Cyprus was only Greek—an implicit threat to the rights of Turkish Cypriots to live there.

When Britain ignored the referendum, Makarios cooperated with Greek nationalist colonel George Grivas to prepare a campaign of armed struggle. Grivas had

led a militia that worked with Britain to crush the Communist resistance in Greece after the Second World War.

His new guerrilla movement in Cyprus, Eoka, began its insurrection with a series of bombings across the island. Its fighters, hidden in the mountains, launched ambush attacks on British soldiers, but also targeted communist and Turkish political groups with violence.

Britain reacted as it did to every threat to its Empire—with extreme brutality. British soldiers terrorised Greek Cypriot villages and neighbourhoods with assaults and beatings.

B RITAIN also encouraged ethnic divisions—it deliberately recruited Turkish Cypriots as police to crush the revolt. With support from Turkey, Turkish Cypriot political leaders set up a rival militia to fight Eoka.

But Eoka held out thanks to its popular support among Greek Cypriots. Whole villages would cooperate to support the campaign.

As the British Empire collapsed, its rulers accepted their new place in the world as second fiddle to the US. They decided to give up Cyprus—as long as they could keep the military bases that helped make them the US's junior partner.

Instead of unity with Greece, Britain offered Cyprus independence—with a deal that allowed it to keep hold of Akrotiri and Dhekelia.

It also reinforced ethnic divisions on the island.

The new government shared “power” between Greek and Turkish Cypriots with positions allocated on the basis of ethnicity. Greek and Turkish areas would also be governed by separate authorities.

It also gave Britain, Greece and Turkey, the right to keep soldiers on the island and send in their militaries against any threat to the set up.

Britain and the US hoped this would secure control of the Mediterranean by keeping a lid on the competition between Greece and Turkey—both allies of the West.

Instead, whenever that rivalry spilled over, it led to horror and bloodshed among ordinary Cypriots.

Greek nationalist attempts to undermine Turkish Cypriots' role in the government caused ethnic violence in 1963.

THE BUFFER zone between the Greek and Turkish sides (top). A military base in Akrotiri where Britain flies planes to bomb nearby countries in the Middle East (above)

Many Turkish people fled to the north of the island, the government broke down and the island was effectively split.

When Grivas attempted a coup in Cyprus in 1974—backed by the military junta in Greece—Turkey invaded to capture the north.

Thousands of Cypriots—Greek and Turkish—were killed in the fighting and some 160,000 people displaced from their homes.

Cyprus is still divided. Ordinary Cypriots on both sides have sometimes shown they want to reunite the island and live together. When the border that divided them was opened in 2003, Cypriots on both sides gathered in numbers to greet each other and celebrate.

But attempts at “unity” deals have always been dictated by competing interests of rival governments, none of which care about ordinary people.

They've all tried to replicate ethnic divisions put in place by the end of British rule, and all have failed.

Now those competing powers threaten war again, with Cyprus once more at the centre. And Britain still has a stake.



Damning report exposes racist school discipline measures

Sadie Robinson looks at a new report that shows schools are more likely to permanently exclude black boys, which creates profit for private investors

RACISM AND class work together to exclude some people from society—and the process has become entrenched partly because it's profitable.

An Institute of Race Relations report published last week showed how school sets up poorer black boys in particular for a life of exclusion.

It warned that permanent exclusion from mainstream education is being “normalised”. And the growth of pupil referral units (PRUs) is “marketing the marginalised”.

Jessica Perera's report focused on London. She showed how school exclusion pushes people towards a much bigger exclusion from society.

Black Caribbean boys are nearly four times more likely to be permanently excluded than other children. And nearly 90 percent of children in detention in 2017-18 had been excluded from school.

Exclusions are not inevitable, but a deliberate consequence of harmful policies. Calls for “discipline” and crackdowns on “bad behaviour” are often justified by reference to knife crime.

Figures show that black boys and men in London are over-represented as victims and offenders of serious violence. Yet Perera adds that “less than 1 percent of the total young black London population is involved”.

Attacks on education have also followed challenges to the system's authority. A government paper published in 1984, three years after riots in a number of cities, warned of the dangers of having a “highly educated” population.

And Tony Blair's New Labour government, elected in 1997, “expanded” many of Tory Margaret

Thatcher's ideas. Again, the government painted some ordinary people as a threat to justify attacks. Perera said “rebellions” in northern England during the summer of 2001 “were enough to prompt a significant change in education legislation”.

Racism and Nazi activity in places including Oldham and Bradford sparked the riots. But Blair used them to focus on “British values” in schools.

Expansion

The 2002 Education Act led to a huge expansion of privately-run academies. Unlike state schools, these were not fined for excluding students.

“New Labour fired up the exclusion engine and firmly established it as an essential cog in the state's neoliberal education machinery,” argues Perera.

“The academy programme and the PRU system have continued to work hand in glove, producing de facto race and class segregation between schools.”

The Tory-Lib Dem coalition also used riots to impose changes in schools.

After the 2011 riots, David Cameron said, “We need an education system which reinforces the message that if you do the wrong thing you'll be disciplined.”

Just three months later, the Tories brought in an Education Act focusing on behaviour, discipline and exclusions. This involved bringing former soldiers in to teach children.

And it justified the Tory drive to privatise education.

The bill gave ministers powers to close PRUs deemed inadequate—and hand them over to others to run.

Gove's 2010 White Paper in

2010 had spoken of opening up the “market to new providers”.

“Alternative Provision Free Schools in particular will be a route for new voluntary and private sector organisations to offer high-quality education,” it said. Of course, for these schools to be viable, there must be a constant stream of young people being excluded.

“The idea of private investors profiting from vulnerable young people deemed ‘disruptive’ in a competitive market was no problem for the education secretary,” says Perera.

“In the neoliberal era, ‘disruptive’ pupils turn private profits.”

Successive governments, Labour and Tory, claim their policies help vulnerable children and keep people safe. But in reality they normalise the idea that some people are doomed to fail—and it helps bosses to make money.

For the full report go to bit.ly/IRRexcluded

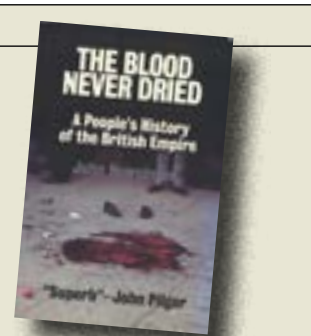
“**Exclusions are not inevitable, but a deliberate consequence of harmful policies**

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● **Cyprus: Beyond the Boundary** by Phaedon Vassiliades Go to bit.ly/cyprusarticle

● **The contemporary dynamics of imperialism in the Middle East** by Anne Alexander Go to bit.ly/middleeastimperialism

● **The Blood Never Dried: A people's history of the British empire** by John Newsinger £13.99 Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



FRANK CRICHLLOW

An inspiring stand against the establishment

by TOMÁS TENGEY-EVANS

FRANK CRICHLLOW “first came into contact with Notting Hill police station” after he opened a cafe in west London in 1959. He was to become an icon of resistance to the cops’ repression for the rest of his life.

Crichlow was born in Trinidad, then one of Britain’s colonies in the Caribbean, in 1932. At the age of 21, he came to Britain on the SS Colombie.

British politicians had encouraged immigration to meet labour shortages. And like many Afro-Caribbean migrants, he moved to west London and worked for British Rail for a few years.

Looking back at that time, from the vantage of the 1990s, Crichlow described how black people met “racism when they went into a shop or tried to get places to stay”. And how Fascist groups organised amidst the racist atmosphere.

In 1956 Crichlow formed the Starlight Four band, which found some success with TV and radio



A MANGROVE 9 campaign poster featuring Frank Crichlow (bottom row, second from left)

appearances. He used the money to set up the El Rio cafe in Westbourne Park.

It attracted a wide clientele from black migrant workers to famous writers, a Tory minister and businessmen.

It also attracted the police who used the “Sus Laws”—similar to Section 60 stop and searches—to frame people on trumped up charges. “The basic reason was racism,” remembered Crichlow.

In 1968 Crichlow set up a new venture called the Mangrove restaurant. Within its first year, cops had raided it six times.

People organised a protest on 9 August 1970 and

marched on the police station. Cops beat up protesters and arrested 12 for incitement to riot.

While the magistrates’ court threw out the charges, the Director of Public Prosecutions reinstated them.

Police rearrested Crichlow and eight others, including leading members of the British Black Panthers Altheia Jones-LeCointe, Barbara Beese and Darcus Howe.

After a defence campaign and a nearly 60-day trial, the jury cleared the Mangrove 9 of the main charge.

Crichlow said, “It was black power time and people were looking for something to identify with.”

“We had telegrams from people all over the world.”

They were saying the nine people had stood up against the whole establishment.”

But the police harassment of the Mangrove continued. In 1988 the police used a sledgehammer to break down the door.

They arrested Crichlow and 11 others, charged them with supplying heroin, and banned him from going near

the Mangrove for a year.

There were big debates in the defence campaign. Some leading figures came from a black nationalist perspective.

They wanted a campaign that only involved black people or was only passively supported by whites.

Others argued for black and white unity against the police and racism. They included Communist Party member Trevor Carter and Socialist Workers Party members.

Crichlow was acquitted. In 1992 the Metropolitan Police was forced to pay out £50,000 in damages for false imprisonment, battery and malicious prosecution.

The Mangrove closed in the same year, but Crichlow continued his activism until his death in 2010.

He didn’t “see myself as a leader”. “As I see it I stood up for my rights and a lot of people identified with that,” he said.

“We weren’t going to put our tails between our legs.”

This is part of a series about radical black lives Go to bit.ly/SWBlackLives

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Oil workers say the system is rigged against green jobs

Large numbers of offshore workers want green industries and jobs. They can deliver change—but they are ignored by those at the top, reports Sarah Bates

 **RAPIDLY** accelerating climate crisis means the days of an energy system powered by oil and gas should be numbered.

But workers in the industry who are best placed to drive forward renewable energy projects and create green jobs are being ignored.

Offshore, a new report released last week, argues that workers are overwhelmingly interested in developing renewable energy “but their knowledge and expertise is untapped”.

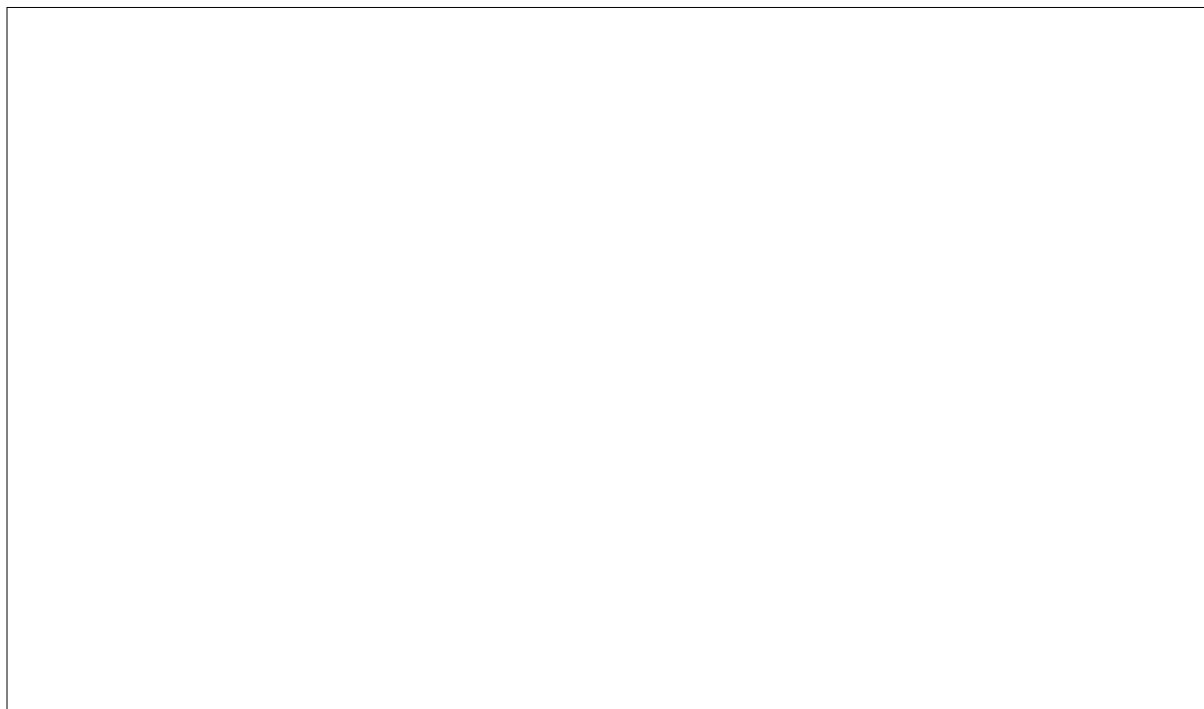
The report by charities Friends of the Earth Scotland, Platform and Greenpeace, interviewed 1,383 offshore workers. It focused on the impact of Covid-19, the collapse of working conditions and their views on a green energy transition.

Many workers have decades of experience, yet there was no attempt to involve them in the energy transition. “Oil and gas workers understand the industry better than any NGO campaigner or government expert,” said the report.

“They understand what the future of renewables can look like, because they know practically what work in construction, operations, electrics, mechanics and engineering involves. “But most importantly, they should have the right to be involved in the planning of their livelihoods and shaping the future of their communities.”

Some 81 percent of workers said they’d consider leaving the industry and over half said that, with the right training, they’d be interested in renewables.

But workers report paying for expensive training—sometimes



WORKERS ON a rig in the North Sea off Scotland

costing thousands of pounds—to move to offshore wind. But after paying out, there’s no guarantee of a job at the other end.

Electrical technician Mark is keen to work in offshore wind but can’t find a job. He agreed with over 50 percent of workers who said that government support at all levels was “nowhere near enough”.

“There are a lot of trades that could slot immediately into a wind farm and there are people who are really capable of progressing in wind

power,” he said. “The government should offer grants as they do for people coming out of the military.

“Renewables is getting bigger and it’s going to be here to stay.”

A “just transition” means a green industrial transformation with workers and affected communities at its heart. It’s a phrase used by environmental campaigners and NGOs—but some 91 percent of workers said they had never heard of the phrase “just transition”.

It’s one example of the gulf between


those campaigning for the planet and those who should be at the centre of the steps necessary to save it.

Billions of pounds needs to be poured into decommissioning rigs, building renewable energy and creating well-paid unionised jobs to do it. But none of this is happening.

Instead, the British government and private firms are ignoring every opportunity to fight the climate crisis and clinging onto a dying industry that is driving us to catastrophe.

For the full report go to bit.ly/Rigs1020

A fight is needed

 **WORKERS** are being made to pay through sustained attacks on their terms and conditions.

Drilling safety adviser Matt said, “The industry has become more and more divided between employed and contracted workers. Many are on zero-hours contracts only, which offer no security or training assistance.”

He said casual work “will allow for companies to get rid of workers whenever they want”.

“They have zero risk, they can take on 150 guys and then get rid of 150 guys six months later,” he explained.

Workers have punishing schedules—the most common rota in Britain is three weeks on the rig, three weeks off.


And many workers surveyed reported that they accepted pay cut after pay cut during the last decade—sometimes of up to 20 percent at a time.

Many union leaders push crude and wrong arguments that claim a move to renewables would threaten jobs, and so oppose a green transition.

Yet they do nothing to fight bosses’ attacks on jobs, pay and conditions.

The fight for decent terms and conditions, proper pay and workers’ organisation has to be at the centre of the energy transition.

More attacks on offshore staff are in the pipeline from bosses

 **MANY OFFSHORE** oil and gas workers face homelessness, unemployment and poverty due to the coronavirus crisis.

Some 43 percent of the workers surveyed said they had been made redundant or furloughed since March 2020.

Dave, who has worked in the oil and gas industry for 26 years, has been on furlough since April and calls it “the worst time in my life”.

“I’ve been applying everywhere, a lot of internal job applications as well, but I have barely been getting any interviews,” he said.

“I guess my plan B is to move to Asia. I’d mostly go to look for a job in renewables.



Shell bosses are slashing up to 9,000 jobs

I’m desperate to get into the industry.”

Analysis by think tank Carbon Tracker showed that slowing demand for fossil fuels during lockdown caused oil and gas prices to crash to record low levels.

This came on top of falling prices and an oversupply of oil in world markets before the pandemic.

Some £67 billion was wiped off the value of oil and gas assets held by the world’s largest oil firms in a nine-month period this year.

Companies have also reduced their predictions for how much they think oil will be worth in the future.

And the crisis is far from over. The Oil and Gas Industry Association said it expects 30,000 direct and indirect jobs to be slashed by the end of this year.

Last week Royal Dutch Shell, Europe’s biggest oil firm, announced it was slashing up to 9,000 jobs.

The firm wants to axe up to 10 percent of its workforce before the end of 2022.

It claims this is because it wants to invest more in low-carbon energy, but really it is a callous cost-cutting measure.

Its cut comes shortly after promising investors it would save £1.9 billion a year as part of a “corporate overhaul”.

No vaccine for majority of people in Britain

Tory plans to limit vaccinations for coronavirus will put ordinary people's lives at risk, says **Sophie Squire**

MOST PEOPLE in Britain won't be vaccinated for coronavirus when a vaccine becomes available.

The disgraceful admission is yet another example of how those at the top are prepared to put ordinary people's lives at risk.

Kate Bingham, head of the Tories' vaccines task force, told the Financial Times newspaper last weekend that vaccinating everyone "was not going to happen".

Bingham is not a medical professional, but the managing director of SV health investors.

She claimed that the government plans to vaccinate around 30 million people. Britain's population is around 67 million.

Bingham said, "People keep talking about 'time to vaccinate the whole population', but that is misguided.

"There's going to be no vaccination of people under 18. It's an adult-only vaccine, for people over 50, focusing on health workers and care home workers and the vulnerable."

The government currently has six candidates for potential vaccines from different pharmaceutical companies.

The vaccines may not be at the final phase of medical testing before the middle of next year.

Vulnerable

The Tories paint their vaccine plans as protecting the most vulnerable. For instance older people, who are more likely to die from the virus, will be among the first to be vaccinated.

But Devi Sridhar, a professor of global public health at Edinburgh university, said that the category of "vulnerable" could include poorer people.

"You could make the argument that the people you need to vaccinate are people from a deprived background," she said.

"The best way to shield is to be wealthy."

But far from protecting vulnerable people, the Tories will consider which groups are "useful"

BACK STORY

Many people hope that a vaccine can quickly be developed for Covid-19

● But the government's vaccines task force had said that not everyone will be vaccinated

● Vaccinations could be restricted to just 30 million out of a population of 67 million

● The Tories plan to give some people vaccines earlier, partly based on age and occupation

● This could leave some people with serious health conditions at risk of contracting coronavirus

for the economy. David Nabarro, special envoy to the World Health Organisation on Covid-19, said there would be "analysis of who is the priority for the vaccine".

He said people could be deemed eligible for the vaccine "based on where they live, their occupation and their age bracket".

"We're not fundamentally using the vaccine to create population immunity," he said.

The government's proposed rankings for vaccination would see older adults in care homes and care home staff vaccinated first.

Next would be people over 80 and health and social care workers, followed by people over 75.

The rankings mean people with serious conditions such as heart disease will have to wait longer for the vaccine if they are under 65.

And contracting Covid-19 is potentially life-threatening for everyone, regardless of age and health.

Scientists agree that the virus can wreak long lasting damage, and that otherwise healthy people are at risk too.

The rationing of the vaccine in Britain highlights a global problem. People in poorer countries are likely to have to wait much longer before receiving vaccines.

There should be a vaccine—when safely developed—available to all.

THE ROYAL Glamorgan Hospital in South Wales has been hit by an outbreak of coronavirus

WALES

Over a dozen die of Covid-19 in hospital in Wales, forcing it to suspend services

by **TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS**

A HOSPITAL in the South Wales Valleys has stopped operations amid an outbreak of 94 new coronavirus cases linked to the site.

Thirteen people had died of coronavirus at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, near Llantrisant in Rhondda Cynon Taf, as Socialist Worker went to press.

The measures are a warning about what will happen as hospitals across Britain struggle to cope with the second wave of coronavirus.

The Royal Glamorgan temporarily suspended operations and restricted access to its A&E department to walk-in patients from Wednesday of last week.

Only a small number of urgent cancer surgeries will continue at the hospital. And patients who need emergency care will be forced to go to hospitals in Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff or Bridgend.

The measures came after the hospital closed two wards last month in the hope of containing a cluster of 34 Covid-19 cases.

Hospital boss Paul Mears told a Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board meeting there is a "very significant situation" at the site.

"We have a situation that has escalated quite significantly over the past few days," he said.

Cwm Taf's director of public health, Kelechi Nnoaham, said the outbreak was likely caused by a "super spreader" event.

Spreads

This is when an individual with coronavirus spreads it to multiple other people, rather than starting a chain of infection.

If more hospitals restrict services, it could mean far more "excess deaths" from conditions other than coronavirus.

Some hospitals in neighbouring areas are also now facing an increase in coronavirus cases.

The Aneurin Bevan health board—which covers Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport and Torfaen—says its hospitals are "very busy".

The Royal Glamorgan Hospital

is in an area currently in a local lockdown due to a spike in coronavirus cases.

People have not been allowed to enter or leave the Rhondda Cynon Taf borough council boundary area without a "reasonable excuse" since 6pm on 17 September.

The Labour-run Welsh government has taken a more cautious approach to lifting the national lockdown than the Tories in England.

But right across England, Scotland and Wales, bosses are putting profits before people's health and lives.

The resurgence of coronavirus has been caused by the Tories' and big businesses' drive to get profits flowing again—to herd people onto public transport and back to work. It is not the fault of ordinary people not following the rules or other groups ministers try to scapegoat for their failures.

And a decade of Tory budget cuts—which have affected NHS Wales too—have left health services exposed.

REHAB WORKERS

'We'll keep fighting,' say rehab strikers

by BARRY CONWAY

WORKERS AT We Are With You (WAWY) rehab service in Wigan and Leigh ended their two-week strike last week.

They are as determined as ever to continue fighting for justice and equality of pay with NHS staff.

"We've been fighting this for almost two years now and we will continue to fight," a striker told Socialist Worker.

"We were promised our NHS terms and conditions by WAWY when it was known as Addaction.

"Bosses have reneged on this promise.

"We took a step back due to the pandemic, but referrals have gone through the roof and we're not going to pay for the crisis.

Freeze

"We've had a pay freeze now for over eight years, and this in real terms equals a substantial pay cut for us.

"Many of us now find it hard to make ends meet.

"We aren't asking for anything other than what was promised. We do a highly skilled and very difficult job and we deserve to be paid a wage that reflects that.

"We will not sacrifice our own mental health to satisfy WAWY's bank accounts.



DETERMINATION ON the picket line

PICTURE: BARRY CONWAY

"This is a fight we cannot turn away from.

"If we do then our mental health and drug and alcohol service funding will continue to be cut."

Support and donations are coming in from across Britain.

Pickets have seen support from the RMT, NEU, CWU and Unite unions and regional Pensioners' Associations.

Strikers went to WAWY's London headquarters on Thursday of last week to drive

home their campaign.

WAWY's cynical use of the current crisis and its blatant refusal to meet its promises, is not the standard expected anywhere in the health service, let alone a charity.

Wigan's Labour council, which commissions the service, is making a grave error in thinking that these workers will just roll over.

The council should look again at its support for this outfit. These workers should

once again be employed directly by the NHS.

A win at WAWY would be a boost to everyone fighting the Tories' and bosses' attempts to make working class people pay for the coronavirus crisis.

If WAWY refuses to make an offer that meets strikers' demands then further action is likely.

For donation details go to bit.ly/RehabStrike Tweet messages of support to @NorthWestUNISON

CULTURE WORKERS

Tate strikes suspended

WORKERS AT the Tate galleries have voted to suspend their strike.

The decision comes after 42 days of industrial action by PCS union members against redundancies.

Bosses have come up with a new offer after several meetings between management and PCS officials at the Acas arbitration service.

The union said, "We have managed to secure several improvements for members in a revised offer from Tate Enterprises management.

"While the final details of the offer are still being negotiated the headlines include an improved re-employment and re-deployment policy.

"There is also an additional significant investment in redundancy payments for staff.

"There is agreement for

preferential recruitment for vacancies across the Tate Estate."

A strikers' Facebook page said, "We believe all workers should challenge the so called 'necessary' job cuts to the lowest paid."

The union added, "We are clear that the cuts across the arts and culture sector are a result of the direct failure of government.

"The headline £1.57 billion investment is targeted to protect brands and buildings and not the workers."

Redundancies have also been announced at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Historic Royal Palaces and the Royal Collections Trust.

Tate strikers have given a lesson in how to fight back when redundancies are threatened. The battle began when bosses announced 313 redundancies.

That fight must continue.

AIRPORTS

Fire and rehire action vote

HEATHROW AIRPORT could be facing a complete shutdown this autumn, as members of the Unite union, prepare to ballot for strikes.

They are fighting the company's attempts to slash the pay of 4,000 workers by up to £8,000 a year.

Workers employed directly by Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) including security officers, engineers, airside operatives and firefighters were set to start a vote on Thursday this week. It closes on 5 November.

HAL has issued Section 188 notices to "fire and rehire" staff on vastly inferior pay and conditions.

Workers face losing up

to 25 percent of their pay. Bosses claim the pay cuts are inevitable because of the pandemic.

But Unite said that HAL's true intention is to use the "cover of Covid" to implement long-held plans to cut staff pay to boost profits.

HAL's chief executive grabbed £3 million in pay and pensions last year. There were 49 directors at Heathrow who earned over £21 million last year between them.

Unite regional co-ordinating officer Wayne King said bosses were, "picking the pockets of loyal workers yet leaving their super-salaries unscathed and shareholders' bounties' untouched."

OBITUARY

Bob Batts 1954-2020

BOB BATTS died suddenly and unexpectedly on 28 September aged 66.

Bob was very active in Birmingham Anti Nazi League and the Socialist Workers Party in the late 1970s and early 80s.

In those days we did pub sales and Bob and I did a paper sale in Handsworth on the night of the riots in 1981. We were arrested and handcuffed together in the van.

After that Bob's career as a psychiatric nurse was cut short and he had to find other work.

Bob had become a psychiatric nurse after experiencing the trauma of his mother's mental illness and death. He cared deeply for his cousin Mandy who has Down's Syndrome and for his partner Brenda's niece,



Bob Batts

Hannah, who has cerebral palsy.

Bob loved music from punk rock to Gustav Mahler. He was a reader, walker and sports fanatic. Bob left the party but remained a lifelong supporter.

He will be very sadly missed by a loving family, children Daniele and Izak and grandchildren Bianca, Osaze and Chijioke.

Brenda is an active member of our branch and we send our love and sympathy to her.

Bridget Parsons

RAIL WORKERS

Struggle on Serco sleeper

RAILWAY WORKERS began their first 48-hour strike for safe working conditions on the Caledonian Sleeper last Sunday.

Workers, who are members of the RMT union, are fighting for enough berths for workers on the overnight service.

The service, which underwent a £150 million upgrade in 2019, is run by outsourcing giant Serco.

Workers organised socially distanced picket lines along the route, which runs from London to Inverness.

Services were cancelled as a result of the first phase of strikes, and workers were planning a second 48-hour walkout from this Sunday.

They are also refusing to work overtime or do higher grade duties and rest day working. Mick Cash, RMT

general secretary said, "It remains a scandal that Serco appears to have deliberately provoked this dispute.

"Instead of working with the union on a solution to the very real issues of safety and fatigue they have declared war on their staff."

Cash blasted the Scottish government, which has "not lifted a finger to help us settle this dispute. They should get off their backsides and haul Serco into action."

He said that Nicola Sturgeon's administration was "distracted" by the political crisis caused after SNP MP Margaret Ferrier, who was Covid-19 positive, travelled from Glasgow to London and back.

Cash said the workers were "demanding nothing more than a safe working environment".

BUS WORKERS

Fightback by bus drivers

BUS OPERATOR Hackney Community Transport has withdrawn proposals to introduce remote sign on at its garage in north east London.

However major bus operator Metrolink is still trying to force through the introduction of remote sign on for its routes in north and west London.

Remote sign on means bus drivers do not begin work at a depot but meet their bus at an outside location. This would mean there will be no checks to ensure the driver is fit and well to drive a bus.

There would be no toilet facilities, rest and canteen provision. And drivers will be forced to wait for their bus to arrive in all weathers.

Unite union members at Metrolink are holding a strike ballot.

LOGISTICS

Deliver on pay, Yodel

DELIVERY FIRM Yodel could face strikes after GMB union members overwhelmingly turned down the firm's pay offer.

The deal is worth a miserly 1.6 percent this year and then 1.5 percent from July 2021.

It was overwhelmingly rejected by 84 percent of the GMB's more than 1,000 members.

The offer comes despite the logistics giant seeing what is says are "Christmas volumes every day" due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Gary Carter, GMB national officer, said, "If Yodel wants to avoid a strike throughout the peak season, they need to come back with a better pay offer.

"The public are on the side of key workers."

TORIES' RACIST BORDER PLANS

by TOMÁŠ TENGYLY-EVANS

TORY HOME secretary Priti Patel plans to make Britain's racist and violent asylum system even more brutal in the "biggest overhaul in decades".

Her speech to the Tory conference last weekend played to racist myths. She promised to stop people who "come here illegally making endless legal claims to remain" and to speed up the "removal of those who have no claim for protection".

Refugees crossing the English Channel to find safety in Britain aren't "illegal". They have a right to claim asylum in Britain.

Germany and France receive over twice the number of asylum applications a year as Britain. And asylum seekers make up just 0.6 per cent of the British population.

Traffickers

Patel blamed "the traffickers, the do-gooders, the leftie lawyers, the Labour Party" for defending a "fundamentally broken" immigration system.

Traffickers are small-time criminals whose business model thrives on Britain and the European Union's border



ANTI-RACISTS in London protest against Tory plans to deter migrants

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

regime. If refugees could come to Britain using safe and legal routes, it would put an end to trafficking.

Tory governments are building on the legacy of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's Labour governments.

Patel's speech came after

a series of leaked measures that the Tories' are considering. These would stop refugees trying to make it to safety in Britain.

The Home Office is holding a consultation over the construction of "floating walls" in the English Channel,

according to the document leaked earlier this week.

An email on 17 September, obtained by the Financial Times newspaper, shows officials had approached the Maritime UK industry group.

It said they wanted a "discreet reaching out" to

industry bodies to look into "marine fencing and other water-based technologies" to repel refugee boats.

Companies were invited to put forward proposals by 21 September that could "fully prevent" a refugee boat from making progress.

Maritime UK said last week it did not believe the plan was "legally possible".

Officials considering the schemes include the Home Office's Joint Security and Resilience Centre, the UK Border Force and Dan O'Mahoney, recently appointed Clandestine Channel Threat Commander.

Fleeing

O'Mahoney—a former Royal Marine—was once deployed in Iraq where many refugees are fleeing from.

Another Home Office plan is to house asylum seekers on Ascension Island, 4,000 miles away in the Atlantic.

Other options include holding asylum seekers at the disused Camp Hill prison on the Isle of Wight or the Fort Blockhouse military site in Gosport in Hampshire.

It was also reported that asylum seekers could be held on disused ferries or decommissioned oil platforms in the North Sea.

Refugees and asylum seekers trapped at Britain's border in northern France are fleeing war, poverty, dictatorship and climate change.

They should be allowed safe entry and be given the right to stay

National anti-racism conference is a chance to unite campaigners

ACTIVISTS are building for Stand Up To Racism's (SUTR) international conference in two weeks time.

This year SUTR is holding its annual conference online on the weekend of Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October.

Speakers are set to include Labour MPs Diane Abbott and Bell Ribeiro-Addy, Mohammed Kozbar from Finsbury Park Mosque and Edie Friedman of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality.

The conference will also hear from Clare Moseley of Care4Calais and Brendan



Activists outside Downing Street

Woodhouse, a FBU firefighters' union member who rescues refugees in the Mediterranean.

Workshops include, "Scrap section 60—end stop and search," "Decolonise now—confronting Britain's colonial legacy" and "Refugees welcome—end the hostile environment."

Federation

Around 150 people joined SUTR's Midlands regional summit last Saturday. Labour MPs Zara Sultana and Nadia Whittome and TUC union

secretary Lee Barron were among the speakers at the online event.

The following day SUTR supporters held a regional summit in the north west of England with speakers including justice campaigner Janet Alder. Her brother, Christopher, died in police custody in Hull in 1998.

Meanwhile, anti-racists staged a protest outside Downing Street last Saturday against Tory plans to ramp up repression against refugees.

The group of 40 protesters chanted, "Say it loud, say it clear—

refugees are welcome here" and "Migrants made the NHS."

Naima Omar from SUTR slammed the Tories' policies. "What they want to do is actually horrific," she told the crowd.

Fran from south London SUTR said, "There is a massive and terrible situation in hotels with refugees."

She explained that they "have now been sent to army barracks" meaning that they are even away from "the friends they made in the hotels".

For conference details and to book go to bit.ly/SUTR2020